

23 Jan 82

Dear Mom & Dad,

I got your tape a couple of days ago and your letter today. The mail has been slow because we've been involved in a big exercise which delays delivery until we are in one spot for a while.

We enjoyed the visit to Palma, especially on Friday when we drove over to the coast. There are several nice fishing/resort towns on the beach. The ocean was very rough and it was fun just standing and watching the surf crash against the rocks. We also toured some enormous caverns with multitudes of stalagmites & stalactites (which is which?)

Friday night I went out to the ship which got underway at 8 a.m.

On Sunday morning the Himitz anchored near the Ike close to Tangier. Soon thereafter our staff with our belongings boarded helos for the short hop to the Ike. This ship is nearly identical to the Himitz so I had no trouble learning my way around. We soon got underway for 14 days at sea which is the longest stretch normally planned.

The pictures you sent are very good. Did you take them from? Diane looks very cute and grownup and Mary looks healthy & slim - because of running no doubt. In fact, you all look good and I hope we can see you in person soon.

Love,
Jim